The Truth on EASTER

Does it really honor Jesus?



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The Truth On Easter



Each year in the springtime, much of the mainstream Christian world celebrates a holiday called "Easter." Many traditionally assume that this holiday originated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Is that true? Does the term "Easter" refer to Jesus is some way?

On Easter morning many families wake up early so they may, as they deem it, "celebrate the resurrection of Christ" and attend a church service. Others may go out to brunch with their loved ones a part of their Easter tradition. There will be a great number of other people that participate in an Easter egg hunt or surprise their kids with a giant chocolate bunny in a colorful basket. There is a saying that "ignorance is bliss" but I am hoping that you, like me, prefer the **joyfulness of the truth**.

Are you wondering what do *bunnies* and *eggs* have to do with a religious holiday? Well, you are not alone and, as we read along, we will find out together! The truth might surprise you. These childhood characters are not random at all, and were not created by some greeting card company.



- Are we open-minded?
- Are we prepared to pull our heads out of the sand of tradition and see the TRUTH?
- We will learn the true history behind Easter.
- We will learn of where the word "Easter" comes from.
- We shall learn how this 'Christian holiday' does (or does not) relate to Jesus Christ
- We will learn where the objects and things associated with Easter came from.
- We will also learn about Lent.
- We will look if the observance is biblical and obliged upon a Christian.
- You alone will decide if this is really the sort of thing your children should be exposed to.
- You alone, before God in heaven, will decide what to do with the knowledge you gain from reading this booklet and your very own Bible.

The information provided here will demonstrate that this spring 'tradition of men' is actually much older and far less 'holy' than one would imagine.

The following quotes have been derived from several valid and even scholarly sources. The purpose is to unveil the truth about the origins of this 'Christianized' pagan spring

holiday. When you have read these though and discerned the truth it is our hope that you will remain convicted and follow His lead - away from non-biblical holidays, to truly worship God in spirit and truth and to honor the Lord Jesus Christ in ways that are pleasing to Him.

The crux of the matter is not so much the hidden meanings of the symbols and story but one of how your heart is before your Creator. Do you decide what days to observe or does God? The Bible tells us that a little leaven leavens the whole lump and with that seasonally-correct truth in mind ... Come, let us reason together.

The Origin and History of Easter

"The term 'Easter' is not of Christian origin. It is another form of Astarte, one of the titles of the Chaldean goddess, the queen of heaven. The festival of Pasch [Passover and the Feast of Unleavens] was a continuation of the Jewish [that is, God's] feast....**from this Pasch the pagan festival of 'Easter' was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate Western religion, as part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity."** (W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, William White, Jr., Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, article: Easter, p.192)

The preceding quote teaches us that the term "Easter" is not Christian-related at all! It is actually the name of a false pagan goddess! The pagan festival of Easter was overlaid on top of the biblical memorial day of Passover with the intention of replacing the day that Jesus Himself observed with one He abhorred!



Ish·tar : Mythology The chief Babylonian and Assyrian goddess, associated with love, fertility, and war, being the counterpart to the Phoenician Astarte. (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000) [Ishtar, Eostre, Easter are all synonymous]

"**The name Easter comes from Eostre, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess, originally of the dawn. In pagan times an annual spring festival was held in her honor.**" (Compton's Encyclopedia and Fact-Index. Vol 7. Chicago: Compton's Learning Company, 1987, p.41)

"It is called **Easter in the English, from the goddess Eostre,** worshipped by the Saxons with peculiar ceremonies in the month of April." (Encyclopædia Britannica, Vol II, Edinburgh: A. Bell & C. Macfarquhar, 1768, p.464)

The next quote reveals that this goddess Ishtar helped ‘resurrect’ her lover and consort ‘**Tammuz**’[who also was her own son!] and that the regeneration of spring was observed to honor this pagan god.

“Tammuz: ancient nature deity worshiped in Babylonia. A god of agriculture and flocks, he personified the creative powers of spring. He was loved by the fertility goddess **Ishtar,** who, according to one legend, was so grief-stricken at his death that she contrived to **enter the underworld to get him back.** According to another legend, **she killed him and later restored him to life.** These legends and his festival, commemorating the yearly death and rebirth of vegetation, **corresponded to the festivals of the Phoenician and Greek Adonis and of the Phrygian Attis. The Sumerian name of Tammuz was Dumuzi.** In the Bible his disappearance is mourned by the women of Jerusalem (Ezek. 8.14).” (The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001)

Attis, in Phrygian religion, vegetation god. ...Like Adonis, Attis came to be worshiped as a god of vegetation, responsible for the death and rebirth of plant life. **Each year at the beginning of spring his resurrection was celebrated in a festival**. In Roman religion he became a powerful celestial deity. (The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001)

What’s In A Name?

Interesting, isn’t it? We have just begun to scratch the thinly painted veneer off this idol called Easter. Let us borrow a few quotes from some Christian [various denominations] sources to confirm what we are learning from the historic sources.

"The term Easter was derived from the Anglo-Saxon '**Eostre**,' the name of the **goddess of spring.** In her honor sacrifices were offered at the time of the vernal equinox**. By the 8th cent. the term came to be applied to the anniversary of Christ's resurrection."** (International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, edited by Geoffrey Bromiley, Vol 2 of 4, p.6, article: Easter)

"There is no warrant in Scripture for the observance of Christmas and Easter as holydays, rather the contrary...and such observance is contrary to the principles of the Reformed faith, conducive to will-worship, and not in harmony with the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. " (Morton H. Smith, How is the Gold Become Dim, Jackson, Mississippi: Steering Committee for a Continuing Presbyterian Church, etc., 1973, p.98)

The pagan feast of Easter was a *fertility festival*, one of many that were based in ritual sex acts. Fertility festivals continue in various forms in some pagan worship rites even until today.

In primitive agricultural societies natural phenomena, such as rainfall, the **fecundity** of the earth, and the regeneration of nature were frequently personified. **One of the most important pagan myths was the search of the earth goddess for her lost (or dead) child or lover (e.g., Isis and Osiris, Ishtar and Tammuz, Demeter and Persephone).** This myth, symbolizing the birth, death, and reappearance of vegetation, when acted out in a sacred drama, **was the fertility rite par excellence.** (The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001)

"Just as many Christian customs and similar observance had their origin in pre-Christian times, so, too some of the popular traditions of.... **Easter dates back to ancient nature rites... The origin of the Easter egg is based on the fertility lore of the Indo-European races...The Easter bunny had its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore. Hare and rabbit were the <u>most fertile</u> animals our forefathers knew, serving as symbols of ... new life in the spring season."** (Jesuit author Francis X. Weiser, The Easter Book, pp.15,181,&188)

In the King James Version of the Bible, the translators erroneously used the word "Easter" once in Acts 12:4 in place of the Greek word "pascha" which is translated correctly as "Passover" in the other 26 places it appears. The appearance of the word has caused confusion for some who do not study deeper.

"EASTER (AV Acts 12:4), An anachronistic **mistranslation** of the Gk. pascha (RSV, NEB, "Passover"), in which the AV followed such earlier versions as Tyndale and Coverdale. **The Acts passage refers to the seven-day Passover festival** (including the Feast of Unleavened Bread). **<u>It is reasonably certain that the NT contains no reference to a yearly celebration of the resurrection of Christ."</u>** (International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, edited by Geoffrey Bromiley, Vol 2 of 4, p.6, article: Easter)

"Easter. [Gk. pascha, from Heb. pesah] The Passover ..., and so translated in every passage except the KJV: 'intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people' [Acts 12:4]. In the earlier English versions Easter had been frequently used as the translation of pascha. At the last revision [1611 A.V.] Passover was [restored] substituted in all passages but this...**The word Easter is of Saxon origin, the name is eastra, the goddess of spring in whose honor sacrifices were offered** about Passover time each year. By the eighth century Anglo-Saxons had adopted the name to designate the celebration of Christ's resurrection." (New Unger's Bible Dictionary, article: "Easter")

The God-commanded observance of Passover, even in its New Testament form, was nothing similar to the fertility festival of Easter observed by the non-Christians and various pagan peoples.

"The [Passover] festival, of which we read in Church history, [erroneously translated] under the name of Easter, in the third or fourth centuries, **was quite a different festival** from that now observed in the Romish [and Protestant] Church, and at that time was not known by any such name as Easter. **It was called Pasch, or the Passover,** and though not of Apostolic institution [It was instituted by God and by Jesus--Lev 23; Matt 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-20; I Cor 11:23-30], **was very early observed by many professing Christians in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Christ** [It is a memorial of His death, not His resurrection--I Cor 11:26]. That festival agreed originally with the time of the Jewish [i.e., God's] Passover, when Christ was crucified .... **That festival** [Passover] **was not idolatrous, and it was preceded by no Lent**" (Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons, p.104)

"The name of a feast, according to the Venerable Bede, comes from **Eostre, A Teutonic goddess** whose festival was celebrated in the spring. The name was given to the Christian

festival in celebration of the resurrected [son of] Eostre, it was who, according to the legend, opened portals of Valhalla to receive Baldur, called the white god because of his purity and also the sun god because his brow supplied light to mankind. It was Baldur who, after he had been murdered by Utgard Loki, the enemy of goodness and truth, spent half the year in Valhalla and the other half with the pale goddess of the lower regions. As the festival of Eostre was a celebration of the renewal of life in the spring it was easy to make it a celebration of the resurrection from the dead of Jesus. **There is no doubt that the church in its early days adopted the old pagan customs and gave a Christian meaning to them."** (George William Douglas, The American Book of Days, article: Easter)

As we have seen with our own eyes, Easter is different from Passover. The pagan name and the trappings of the pagan festival later became blended with true Christianity. Let’s continue learning together:

"EASTER: This is from Anglo-Saxon Eostre, a pagan goddess whose festival came at the spring equinox." (Joseph T. Shipley, Dictionary of Word Origins, New York: Philosophical Library, MCMXLV, p.131)

"The word Easter comes from the Old English word eostre, the name of a dawn-goddess worshipped in the Spring." (Oxford Junior Encyclopaedia, London: Odhams, 1957, p.123)

"The English word Easter is derived from the names 'Eostre' - 'Eastre' - 'Astarte' or 'Ashtaroth'. Astarte was introduced into the British Isles by the Druids and is just another name for Beltis or Ishtar of the Chaldeans and Babylonians. The book of Judges records that **'the children of Israel did evil ...in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth,** ...and forsook the LORD, and served not Him.' **Easter is just another name for Ashteroth 'The Queen of Heaven.'”** (Richard Rives, Too Long in the Sun)

“Easter was not considered a 'Christian' festival until the fourth century. Early Christians celebrated Passover on the 14th day of the first month and a study of the dates on which Easter is celebrated will reveal that the celebration of Easter is not observed in accordance with the prescribed time for the observance of Passover. After much debate, the Nicaean council of 325 A.D. decreed that 'Easter' should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the vernal equinox. Why was so much debate necessary if 'Easter' was a tradition passed down from the Apostles? **The answer is that it was not an Apostolic institution, but, an invention of man!** They had to make up some rules. **History records that spring festivals in honor of the pagan fertility goddesses and the events associated with them were celebrated at the same time as 'Easter'**. In the year 399 A.D. the Theodosian Code attempted to remove the pagan connotation from those events and banned their observance**. The pagan festival of Easter originated as the worship of the sun goddess, the Babylonian Queen of Heaven who was later worshipped under many names including Ishtar,** Cybele, **Idaea Mater (the Great Mother)**, or Astarte for whom the celebration of Easter is named. **Easter is not another name for the Feast of Passover and is not celebrated at the Biblically prescribed time**

for Passover. This pagan festival was supposedly 'Christianized' several hundred years after Christ." (Richard Rives, Too Long in the Sun)

"When Christianity conquered Rome: the ecclesiastical structure of the pagan church, the title and the vestments of the pontifex maximus, the worship of **the Great Mother goddess** and a multitude of comforting divinities, the sense of super sensible presences everywhere, the joy or solemnity of old festivals, and the pageantry of immemorial ceremony, **passed like maternal blood into the new religion,--**and captive Rome conquered her conqueror. The reins and skills of government were handed down by a dying empire to a virile papacy." (Will Durant, Caesar and Christ, p. 672)

"Satan, the great counterfeiter, worked through the 'mystery of iniquity' to introduce a counterfeit Sabbath to take the place of the true Sabbath of God. Sunday stands side by side with Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy (or Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Whitsun day, Corpus Christi, Assumption Day, All Souls' Day, Christmas Day, and a host of other ecclesiastical feast days too numerous to mention. This array of Roman catholic feasts and fast days are **all man made. None of them bears the divine credentials of the Author of the Inspired Word**." (M. E. Walsh)

"The [Roman Catholic] church took the pagan philosophy and made it the buckler of faith against the heathen. She took the pagan, Roman Pantheon, temple of all the gods, and made it sacred to all the martyrs; so it stands to this day. She took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday. She took the pagan Easter and made it the feast we celebrate during this season. Sunday and Easter day are, if we consider their derivation, much the same. In truth, all Sundays are Sundays only because they are a weekly, partial recurrence of Easter day. The pagan Sunday was, in a manner, an unconscious preparation for Easter day." (Willliam L. Gildea, D.D., Paschale Gaudium, in The Catholic World, Vol. LVIII., No. 348., March, 1894, published in New York by The Office of The Catholic World., pp.808-809)

"**There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers.** The sanctity of special times [i.e., aside from the Holy Days appointed by God] was an idea absent from the minds of **the first Christians, who continued to observe the Jewish** [i.e., God's] **festivals, though in a new spirit,** as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed. Thus the Passover, with a new conception added to it of Christ, as the true Paschal Lamb and the firstfruits from the dead, continued to be observed, and became the Christian Easter. **The name Easter (Ger. Ostern), like the names of the days of the week, is a survival from the old Teutonic mythology**. According to Bede (De Temp. Rat. c.xv.) it is derived from Eostre, or Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, to whom the month answering to our April, and called Eostur-monath, was dedicated. This month, Bede says, was the same as **mensis pashalis**, 'when the old festival was observed with the gladness of a new solemnity.' The name of the festival in other languages (as Fr. paques; Ital. pasqua; Span. pascua; Dan. paaske; Dutch paasch; Welsh pasg) is derived from the Lat. pascha and the Gr. pascha. These in turn come from the Chaldee or Aramaean form pascha', **of the Hebrew name of the Passover festival pesach**..." (Encyclopaedia Brittanica, 11th edition, vol. 8, p. 828, article: "Easter")

"Vernal Mysteries (spring heathen rites) like those of Tammuz, and Osiris and Adonis flourished in the Mediterranean world and farther north and east there were others. Some of their rites and symbols were carried forward into Easter customs. Many of them have survived into our own day, unchanged yet subtly altered in their new surroundings to bear a 'Christian'significance." (Christina Hole, Easter and its Customs)

"...Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox; traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts." (Funk and Wagnall's Encyclopedia, article: Easter)

"EASTER: from Old English eastre, name of a spring goddess." (The Columbia Encyclopedia, Fifth Edition, Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1995)

"The pagan festival held at the vernal equinox to honor Eastre, the goddess of dawn, was called Eastre in Old English. Since the Christian festival celebrating Christ's resurrection fell at about the same time, the pagan name was borrowed for it when Christianity was introduced to England, the name later being changed slightly to Easter. " (Robert Hendrickson, The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins, New York: Facts on File, 1987, p.177)

"EASTER: West Germanic name of a pagan spring festival." (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, Springfield: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1976)

"The English word Easter comes from the goddess Eastre, whose festival was celebrated at the vernal equinox, and who presided over the fertility of man and animals." (Betty Nickerson, Celebrate the Sun, Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1969, p.38)

"The story of Easter is not simply a Christian story. Not only is the very name "Easter" the name of an ancient and non-Christian deity; the season itself has also, from time immemorial, been the occasion of rites and observances having to do with the mystery of death and resurrection among peoples differing widely in race and religion." (Alan W. Watts, Easter: its Story and Meaning)

"Before Christ was born the people living in northern Europe had a goddess called Eostre, the goddess of the spring. Every year, in spring the people had a festival for her. The name of our spring festival, Easter, comes from the name Eostre." (The Easter Book, Milan: Macdonald Educational, 1980, p.5)

"The Venerable Bede, (672-735 CE.) a Christian scholar, first asserted in his book De Ratione Temporum that Easter was named after Eostre (a.k.a. Eastre). She was the Great Mother Goddess of the Saxon people in Northern Europe. Similar Teutonic dawn goddess of fertility [were] known variously as Ostare, Ostara, Ostern, Eostra, Eostre, Eostur, Eastra, Eastur, Austron and Ausos." (Larry Boemler, Biblical Archaeology Review, Vol. 18, Number 3, 1992-May/June, article: "Asherah and Easter")

"Eostre: Saxon and Neo-Pagan goddess of fertility and springtime whom the holiday Easter was originally named after." (Gerina Dunwich, The Concise Lexicon of the Occult, New York: Citadel Press, 1990 p.54)

"EASTER: Bæde Temp. Rat. XV. derives the word from Eostre (Northumb. spelling Éastre), the name of a goddess whose festival was celebrated at the vernal equinox; her name...shows that she was originally the dawn-goddess." (The Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989)

"Astarte: a Phoenician goddess of fertility and sexual love who corresponds to the Babylonian and Assyrian goddess Ishtar and who became identified with the Egyptian Isis, the Greek Aphrodite, and others." (Oxford Dictionary of English)

"Ishtar: ancient fertility deity, the most widely worshiped goddess in Babylonian and Assyrian religion. Ishtar was important as a mother goddess, goddess of love, and goddess of war. Her cult spread throughout W Asia, and she became identified with various other earth goddesses (see GREAT MOTHER OF THE GODS). Great Mother of the Gods: in ancient Middle Eastern religion (and later in Greece, Rome, and W Asia), mother goddess, the great symbol of the earth's fertility. As the creative force in nature, she was worshiped under many names, including ASTARTE (Syria), CERES (Rome), CYBELE (Phrygia), DEMETER (Greece), ISHTAR (Babylon), and ISIS (Egypt). The later forms of her cult involved the worship of a male deity (her son or lover, e.g., ADONIS, OSIRIS), whose death and resurrection symbolized the regenerative power of the earth." (www.encyclopedia.com)

When we reflect how often the Church has skilfully contrived to plant the seeds of the new faith on the old stock of paganism, we may surmise that the Easter celebration of the dead and risen Christ was grafted upon a similar celebration of the dead and risen Adonis, which, as we have seen reason to believe, was celebrated in Syria at the same season. (Sir James George Frazer (1854–1941). The Golden Bough. 1922.)

"Thus much already laid down may seem a sufficient treatise to prove that the celebration of the feast of Easter began everywhere more of custom than by any commandment either of Christ or any apostle." (Socrates, Hist Ecclesiates., lib. v. cap. 22)

"As with the other Christian holidays, there was also a holiday in ancient times that was celebrated at about the same time. In this case, it was the celebration of the vernal equinox-the tribute to the goddess of spring, Eastre. Eastre was an Anglo-Saxon goddess who is reputed to have opened the gates of Valhalla for the slain sun god, Baldrun, thereby bringing light to man. Easter also refers to the rising of the sun in the east." (Carole Potter, Encyclopedia of Superstition, London: Michael O'Mara Books, 1983, p.69)

"Then look at Easter. When means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. That name,

as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments, is Ishtar." [The Two Babylons (Or The Papal Worship), Alexander Hislop, 1916, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., p.103]

"When we reflect how often the [Roman Catholic] Church has skilfully contrived to plant the seeds of of the new faith on the old stock of paganism, we may surmise that the Easter celebration of the dead and risen Christ was grafted upon the similar celebration of the dead and risen Adonis, which, as we have seen reason to believe, was celebrated in Syria at the same season." (Sir James George Frazer, The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion, New York : Macmillan Company, 1951, p .401)

"About the end of the sixth century, the first decisive attempt was made to enforce the observance of the new calendar. It was in Britain that the first attempt was made in this way; and here the attempt met with vigorous resistance. The difference, in point of time, betwixt the Christian Pasch, as observed in Britain by the native Christians, and the Pagan Easter enforced by Rome, at the time of its enforcement, was a whole month; and it was only by violence and bloodshed, at last, that the Festival of the Anglo-Saxon or Chaldean goddess came to supersede that which had been held in honour of Christ." [The Two Babylons (Or The Papal Worship), Alexander Hislop, 1916, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., p.107]

"Many of the customs associated with Easter are derived from various spring fertility rites of the pagan religions which Christianity supplanted." (Encyclopedia International, China: Lexicon Publications, 1973, p.190)

"Easter is connected in many ways with early pagan rituals that accompanied the arrival of spring." (Merit Students Encyclopedia, New York: P. F. Collier, 1983, p.167-168)

"Both of these festivals [Easter and Christmas] have roots in old pagan rituals that they have superceeded." (G. MacGregor, Dictionary of Religion and Philosophy, New York: Paragon House, 1991, p.207)

"Even though it [Easter] has stood for over fifteen hundred years as the symbol of the resurrection of Jesus to members of the Christian Church, it is not entirely a Christian festival. Its origins go far back into pagan rites and customs." (Charlotte Adams, Easter Idea Book, New York: M. Barrows and Company, 1954, p.11)

"Many of the customs associated with Easter originate in pagan celebrations of spring." (New Standard Encyclopedia, Vol 6. Chicago: Standard Educational, 1991,pE-25-E-27)

"There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the [so-called] apostolic Fathers. The sanctity of special times was an idea absent from the mind of the first Christians." (The Encyclopædia Britannica, 11th ed., Vol VIII, Cambridge: The University Press, 1910, p.828)

"Around the Christian observance of Easter as the climax of the liturgical drama of Holy Week and Good Friday, folk customs have collected, many of which have been handed down from the ancient ceremonial and symbolism of European and Middle Eastern pagan

spring festivals brought into relation with the resurrection theme." (The New Encyclopædia Britannica, 15th ed. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 1992. p.333)

"When Christians first spread across Europe, believers in the new faith changed many of the older rites and ceremonies, adapting them to fit with the life and teaching of Jesus. They did not try to stop people from having a great spring festival for their old pagan goddess, Eostre." (Julian Fox, Easter, Vero Beach: Rourke Enterprises, 1989, p.11)

"About 200 B.C. mystery cults began to appear in Rome just as they had earlier in Greece. Most notable was the Cybele cult centered on Vatican hill ...Associated with the Cybele cult was that of her lover, Attis (the older Tammuz, Osiris, Dionysus, or Orpheus under a new name). He was a god of ever-reviving vegetation. Born of a virgin, he died and was reborn annually. The festival began as a day of blood on Black Friday and culminated after three days in a day of rejoicing over the resurrection." (EASTER: ITS ORIGINS AND MEANINGS by The Religious Tolerance Organization Web site http://www.religioustolerance.org/easter.htm)

Easter Eggs



"Eggs were a primitive symbol of fertility; but Christians saw in them a symbol of the tomb from which Christ rose, and continued the [pagan] practice of coloring, giving, and eating them at Easter. "(New Age Encyclopedia.,Vol 6. China: Lexicon Publications, 1973, p.190)

"The custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring." (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol.5, article: Easter)



"Eggs were hung up in the Egyptian temples. Bunsen calls attention to the mundane egg, the emblem of generative life, proceeding from the mouth of the great god of Egypt. The mystic egg of Babylon, hatching the Venus Ishtar, fell from heaven to the Euphrates. Dyed eggs were sacred Easter offerings in Egypt, as they are still in China and Europe. Easter, or spring, was the season of birth, terrestrial and celestial." (James Bonwick, Egyptian Belief and Modern Thought, pp. 211-212)

"...the egg as a symbol of fertility and of renewed life goes back to the ancient Egyptians and Persians, who had also the custom of colouring and eating eggs during their spring festival." (Encylopaedia Britannica, article: Easter)

"Eggs were sacred to many ancient civilizations and formed an integral part of religious ceremonies in Egypt and the Orient. Dyed eggs were hung in Egyptian temples, and the

egg was regarded as the emblem of regenerative life proceeding from the mouth of the great Egyptian god." (Anon, Easter: The Pagan Origins of Common Easter Traditions)

"The egg has become a popular Easter symbol...In ancient Egypt and Persia, friends exchanged decorated eggs at the spring equinox, the beginning of their New Year. These eggs were a symbol of fertility for them....Christians of the Near East adopted this tradition, and the Easter egg became a religious symbol. It represented the tomb from which Jesus came forth to new life." (Greg Dues, Catholic Customs and Traditions, 1992, p.101)



"The origin of the Pasch eggs is just as clear. The ancient Druids bore an egg, as the sacred emblem of their order. In the Dionysiaca, or mysteries of Bacchus, as celebrated in Athens, one part of the nocturnal ceremony consisted in the consecration of an egg. The Hindoo fables celebrate their mundane egg as of a golden colour. The people of Japan make their sacred egg to have been brazen. In China, at this hour, dyed or painted eggs are used on sacred festivals, even as in this country. In ancient times eggs were used in the religious rites of the Egyptians and the Greeks, and were hung up for mystic purposed in their temples. From Egypt these sacred eggs can be distinctly traced to the banks of the Euphrates. The classic poets are full of the fable of the mystic egg of the Babylonians; and thus its tale is told by Hyginus, the Egyptian, the learned keeper of the Palatine library at Rome, in the time of Augustus, who was skilled in all the wisdom of the native country: 'An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. The fishes rolled it to the bank, were the doves having settled upon it, and hatched it, out came Venus, who afterwards was called the Syrian Goddess'--that is, **Astarte. Hence the egg became one of the symbols of Astarte or Easter; and accordingly, in Cyprus, one of the chosen seats of the worship of Venus, or Astarte, the egg of wondrous size was represented on a grand scale."** [The Two Babylons (Or The Papal Worship) , Alexander Hislop, 1916, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., pp.108-109]



"Christians adapted the symbols, ceremonies and name of the spring festivities of Ishtar-Esther-Eostre to create Easter. Jesus breaks through the hard, cold coffin shell of death to be reborn every spring. In the resurrection of Christ, we witness the vernal rebirth of the soul." (D. Henes, Celestially Auspicious Occasions: Seasons, Cycles and Celebrations, New York: Perigee Book)

"The Persians and Egyptians colored eggs and ate them during their new year's celebration, which came in the spring." (The New Book of Knowledge, Danbury: Grolier, 1991, p.44)

"In northern Europe, Eostre, the Teutonic-Anglo-Saxon goddess of dawn, evolved from Astarte in Babylon and from Ishtar from Assyria. Eggs, dyed blood-red and rolled in the

newly sown soil at spring equinox, ensured fertility of the fields. The Moon Hare, sacred animal totem of Eostre, laid more colored eggs for children to find. From the name, Eostre, Astarte, and Ishtar, we derive the scientific terminology for the female hormone and reproduction cycle: estrogen and estrus. Easter also derives from Eostre." (D. Henes, Celestially Auspicious Occasions: Seasons, Cycles and Celebrations, New York: Perigee Book)

"Since man's earliest time, the egg, symbolizing the universe, figures in creation mythologies including those of China, Japan, Finland, Siberia and parts of Africa. ...When today's children hunt for Easter eggs they are re-enacting one of man's oldest rituals. " (Betty Nickerson, Celebrate the Sun, Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1969, p.38)

"This [Easter egg hunting] is not mere child's play, but the vestige of a fertility rite" (Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend, Volume 1, pg.335)

"The egg, as a symbol of New Life is much older than Christianity and the coloring of it at the spring festival is also of very ancient origin. The Egyptians, the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans used it this way. Eggs were eaten during the spring festival from very early times. Children are told that the rabbit lays the Easter eggs in a garden for the children to find. This is an adaption of the pagan custom of regarding the rabbit as an emblem of fertility, that is, of new life." (George William Douglas, The American Book of Days, article: Easter)



"The exchange of Easter eggs, which symbolize new life and fertility, is one of the oldest traditions. Rabbits and flowers are also pagan fertility symbols." (New Standard Encyclopedia, Vol. 6, Chicago: Standard Educational, 1991. pE-25-E-27)

Easter Lilies

"**The so-called 'Easter lily' has long been revered by pagans of various lands as a holy symbol associated with the reproductive organs**. It was considered a phallic symbol!" (A. J. Dager, Facts and Fallacies of the Resurrection, p.5)



In the ancient Near East, the lily was associated with Ishtar, also known as **Astarte**, who was a goddess of creation and **fertility** as well as a virgin. The Greeks and Romans linked the lily with the **queen of the gods, called Hera** by the Greeks and **Juno** by the Romans. **The lily was also one of the symbols of the Roman goddess Venus**. In later times, Christians adopted the lily as the symbol of Mary who became the mother of Jesus while still a virgin. (Flowers in Mythology http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Fi-Go/Flowers-in-Mythology.html)

Lily: The flower of Lilith, Sumero-Babylonian Goddess of creation; the lilu or "lotus" of her genital magic. The lily often represented the virgin aspect of the Triple Goddess, while the rose represented her maternal aspect. The lily was sacred to Astarte, who was also Lilith; northern Europeans called her Ostara or Eostre, the Goddess of "Easter" lilies. (From Barbara Walker's "The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets.")

Easter Bunny (i.e., rabbits/hares)



"Nobody seems to know precisely the origin of the Easter bunny, except that it can be traced back to pre-Christian **fertility** lore**. It has never had any connection with Christian religious symbolism**." (Priscilla Sawyer and Daniel J. Foley, Easter the World Over, Philadelphia: Chilton Book Company, 1971, p.104)

"Little children are usually told that the Easter eggs are brought by the Easter Bunny. **Rabbits are part of pre-Christian fertility symbolism because of their reputation to reproduce rapidly**." (Greg Dues, Catholic Customs and Traditions, 1992, p.102)



"In ancient Anglo-Saxon myth, Ostara is **the personification of the rising sun.** In that capacity she is associated with the spring and is considered to be **a fertility goddess**. She is the friend of all children, and to amuse them, she changed **her pet bird into a rabbit. This rabbit brought forth brightly colored eggs, which the goddess gave to the children as gifts.** From her name and rites the festival of Easter is derived. Ostara is identical to the Greek Eos and the Roman Aurora." (Encyclopedia Mythica, article: Ostara)

"The Easter hare was no ordinary animal, but a sacred companion of the old goddess of spring, Eostre." (Julian Fox, Easter, Vero Beach: Rourke Enterprises, 1989, p.11)

"Like the Easter egg, the Easter hare, now an accepted part of the traditional Easter story, came to Christianity from antiquity. The hare is associated with the moon in the legends of ancient Egypt and other peoples." (Encyclopædia Britannica, Vol 7. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 1955, p.859)



"The hare, the symbol of fertility in ancient Egypt, a symbol that was kept later in Europe, is not found in North America. **Its place is taken by the Easter rabbit, the symbol of fertility** and periodicity both human and lunar, accredited with laying eggs in nests prepared for it at Easter or with hiding them away for children to find." (The New Encyclopædia Britannica, 15th ed. Chicago:1992, p.333)

"The Easter Rabbit lays the eggs, for which reason they are hidden in a nest or in the garden. **The rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility** (Simrock, Mythologie, 551)." (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol.5, article: Easter)

"The white rabbit of Easter, beloved of small Americans, comes hopping down to us from eras when the sun and the moon were gods to men." (Marguerite Ickis, The Book of Religious Holidays and Celebrations, New York: Dodd, Mead& Company, 1966, p.133)



The Mayan Goddess Ixchel (statue pictured right) is shown in this representation manifesting her moon-maiden aspect with a fecund rabbit companion, an ancient and modern symbol of fertility, procreation and Witchcraft.

Sunrise Services



"The custom of a sunrise service on Easter Sunday can be traced to ancient spring festivals that celebrated the rising sun." (The New Book of Knowledge, Danbury: Grolier, 1981, p.41)

"Cults of the sun, as we know from many sources, had attained great vogue during the second, third, and fourth centuries. Sun-worshipers indeed formed one of the big groups in that religious world in which Christianity was fighting for a place. Many of them became converts to Christianity . . . **Worshipers in St. Peter's turned away from the altar and faced the door so that they could adore the rising sun."** (Gordon J. Laing, Survivals of Roman Religion, p. 192)



" Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, **there sat women weeping for Tammuz.** Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see **greater abominations** than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, **with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.** (Holy Scripture, King James Version, Ezekiel 8:14-16)



"A suitable, single example of the pagan influence may be had from an investigation of the Christian **custom of turning toward the East, the land of the rising sun, while offering their prayers..."** (F.A. Regan, Dies Dominica, P. 196)

"Others, with greater regard to good manners, it must be confessed, suppose that **the sun** is the God of the Christians, **because it is a well-known fact that we pray toward the east, or because we make Sunday a day of festivity."** (Tertullian [155-225 AD.], Ad Nationes, i 13, in The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. III, p. 123)

Easter Parades & Wearing of New Clothes



"The Easter Parade which is held after church services in many cultures is another survival from long ago. **Before there were courtiers or fashion pages there was a lively superstition, dear to princesses and peasant maidens alike, that a new garment worn at Easter meant good luck throughout the year**." (Marguerite Ickis, The Book of Religious Holidays and Celebrations, New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1966, p.133)

"**For centuries, even in pagan times, it had been the custom to put on new clothes for the spring festival."** (Priscilla Sawyer and Daniel J. Foley, Easter the World Over, Philadelphia: Chilton Book Company, 1971, p.134)

Hot-cross buns



Jeremiah 7:18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, **and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and** to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger**.** 19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces? (The KJV Bible)

"The hot-cross bun, for example, is pagan in origin. The Anglo-Saxon savages consumed cakes as a part of the jolity that attended the welcoming of spring. The early missionaries from Rome despaired of breaking them of the habit, and got around the difficulty at last by blessing the cakes, drawing a cross upon them." (Marguerite Ickis, The Book of Religious Holidays and Celebrations, New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1966, p.134)



"The 'buns,' known too by that identical name, were **used in the worship of the queen of heaven, the goddess Easter, as** early as the days of Cecrops, the founder of Athens--that is, 1500 years before the Christian era. 'One species of sacred bread,' says Bryant, 'which used to be offered to the gods, was of great antiquity, and called Boun.' Diogenes Laertius, speaking of this offering being made by Empedocles, describes the chief ingredients of which it was composed, saying, 'He offered one of the sacred cakes called

Boun, which was made of fine flour and honey.' The prophet Jeremiah takes notice of this kind of offering when he says, 'The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, **and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven.' The hot cross buns are not now offered, but eaten, on the festival of Astarte; but this leaves no doubt as to whence they have been derived."** [The Two Babylons (Or The Papal Worship), Alexander Hislop, 1916, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., p.108]

"It is quite probable that it [the word bun] has a far older and more interesting origin, as is suggested by an inquiry into the origin of hot cross buns. These cakes, which are now solely associated with the Christian Good Friday, **are traceable to the remotest period of pagan history**. Cakes were offered by ancient Egyptians to their moon goddess; and these had imprinted on them a pair of horns, symbolic of the ox at the sacrifice of which they were offered on the altar, or of the horned moon goddess**, the equivalent of Ishtar of the Assyro-Babylonians**. **The Greeks offered such sacred cakes to Astarte [Easter] and other divinities**. This cake they called bous (ox), in allusion to the ox-symbol marked on it, and from the accusative boun it is suggested that the word 'bun' is derived. **Like the Greeks, the Romans eat cross-bread at public sacrifices, such bread being usually purchased at the doors of the temple and taken in with them**, a custom alluded to by St. Paul in I Cor. x.28. **At Herculaneum two small loaves about 5 in. in diameter, and plainly marked with a cross, were found**. In the Old Testament are references made in Jer. vii.18-xliv.19, to such sacred bread being offered to the moon goddess. **The cross-bread was eaten by the pagan Saxons in honor of Eoster, their goddess of light**. The Mexicans and Peruvians are shown to have had a similar custom. **The custom, in fact, was practically universal, and the early church adroitly adopted the pagan practice, grafting it on to the Eucharist**. The boun with its Greek cross became akin to the Eucharistic bread or cross-marked wafers mentioned in St. Chrysostom's liturgy. In the medieval church, buns made from the dough for the consecrated Host were to be distributed to the communicants after mass on Easter Sunday. In France and other Catholic countries, such blessed bread is still given in the churches to communicants who have a long journey before they can break their fast." (Encyclopædia Britannica, 11th ed., article: "bun")

Easter Bonfires

"Pagan festivals celebrating spring included fire and sunrise celebrations. Both later became part of Easter celebrations." (The New Book of Knowledge, Danbury: Grolier, 1991, p.44)



"....every year, at Beltane (or the 1st of May), a number of men and women assemble at an ancient Druidical circle of stones on her property near Crieff. They light a fire in the centre, each person puts a bit of oat-cake in a shepherd's bonnet; they all sit down, and draw blindfold a piece from the bonnet. One piece has been previously blackened, and whoever gets that piece has to jump through the fire in the centre of the circle, and pay a forfeit. This is, in fact, a part of the ancient worship of Baal, and the person on whom the lot fell was previously burnt as a sacrifice.

Now, the passing through the fire represents that, and the payment of the forfeit redeems the victim. **If Baal was thus worshipped in Britain, it will not be difficult to believe that his consort Astarte was also adored by our ancestors, and that from Astarte, whose name in Nineveh was Ishtar, the religious solemnities of April, as now practised, are called by the name of Easter--that month, among our Pagan ancestors, having been called Easter-monath**." [The Two Babylons (Or The Papal Worship), Alexander Hislop, 1916, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., p.104]

"The Easter Eve bonfires predate Christianity and were originally intended to celebrate the arrival of spring." (Merit Students Encyclopedia, Vol 6, New York: P. F. Collier, 1983, p.167-168)

"The Easter Fire is lit on the top of mountains (Easter mountain, Osterberg) and must be kindled from new fire, drawn from wood by friction (nodfyr); this is **a custom of pagan origin** in vogue all over Europe, **signifying the victory of spring over winter**. **The bishops issued severe edicts against the sacrilegious Easter fires** (Conc. Germanicum, a. 742, c.v.; Council of Lestines, a.743, n.15), but did not succeed in abolishing them everywhere. The Church adopted the observance into the Easter ceremonies, referring it to the fiery column in the desert and to the Resurrection of Christ; the new fire on Holy Saturday is drawn from flint, symbolizing the Resurrection of the Light of the World from the tomb closed by a stone (Missale Rom.). In some places a figure was thrown into the Easter fire, symbolizing winter..." (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol.5, article: Easter)



"Fire, once part of the pagan spring festival, is now a Christian Easter symbol." (The New Book of Knowledge, Danbury: Grolier, 1981, p.41)

"Spring fire rites to honor the sun god were forbidden until the year 752 A.D. By that time the pagan fires had changed into Easter fires." (Edna Barth, Lilies, Rabbits, and Painted Eggs: The Story of the Easter Symbols, New York: Seabury Press, 1970, p.15)

"Bonfires on Easter Eve are particularly common in Germany, where they are lighted not only in churchyards but upon hilltops, where the young people gather around and jump over them, dance, and sing Easter hymns. **These are remnants of pagan and sacrificial rites** in which quantities of tar-soaked barrel staves, branches and roots of trees were burned." (Priscilla Sawyer and Daniel J. Foley, Easter the World Over, Philadelphia: Chilton Book Company, 1971, p.103)



ALL over Europe the peasants have been accustomed from time immemorial to kindle bonfires on certain days of the year, and to dance round or leap over them. Customs of this kind can be traced back on historical evidence to the Middle Ages, and their analogy to **similar customs observed in antiquity goes with strong internal evidence to prove that their origin must be sought in a period long prior to the spread of Christianity**.(Sir James George Frazer (1854–1941). The Golden Bough. 1922.)

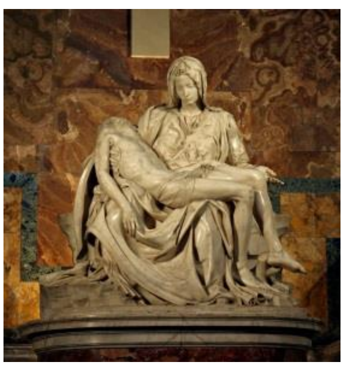
The essentially pagan character of the Easter fire festival appears plainly both from the mode in which it is celebrated by the peasants and from the superstitious beliefs which they associate with it. (Sir James George Frazer (1854–1941). The Golden Bough. 1922.)

Lent



"The word Lent is of Anglo-Saxon origin, meaning spring." (Marguerite Ickis, The Book of Religious Holidays and Celebrations, New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1966, p.114)

"The celebration of Lent has no basis in Scripture, but rather developed from **the pagan celebration of Semiramis's mourning for 40 days over the death of Tammuz** (cf. Ezek 8:14) before his alleged resurrection---another of Satan's mythical counterfeits." (John MacArthur, Jr., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 1 Corinthians, Chicago: Moody, 1984)



"'It ought to be known,' said Cassianus, the monk of Marseilles, writing in the fifth century, and contrasting the primitive Church with the Church in his day, 'that the observance of forty days had no existence, so long as the perfection of that primitive Church remained inviolate.' Whence, then, came this observance? **The forty days abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess."** [The Two Babylons (Or The Papal Worship), Alexander Hislop, 1916, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., p.104]

Pagans Still Celebrate Easter

"Sabbats in Modern Witchcraft--**Spring Equinox--A solar festival,** in which day and night, and the forces of male and female, are in equal balance. **The spring equinox, the first day of spring, marks the birth of the infant Sun God and paves the way for the coming lushness of summer. Dionysian rites are performed. The Christian version of the sabbat is Easter.** (Rosemary Ellen Guiley, The Encyclopedia of Witches and Witchcraft, New York: Facts On File, 1989, p.289)



Modern Wiccan Altar



"Witches celebrate eight major festivals or sabbats each year. The sabbat is a religious ceremnoy deriving from ancient European festivals celebrating seasonal and pastoral changes. The first is Yule, 20 or 21 December, celebrating the winter solstice. The next is 1 or 2 February, Oimelc, Imbolc, or Candlemas, at which initiations often take place. 20 or 21 March, Eostre,

the vernal equinox, is a fertility festival. 30 April is Beltane." (Jeffery B. Russell, A History of Witchcraft: Sorcerers, Heretics, and Pagans, London: Thames and Hudson, 1980, p.167)

Perfume On A Pig?

One might respond with- well, yes this is all true, but Christians have "baptized" this admittedly pagan day and made it holy to God, so there is really no problem. Please note the following very carefully.

> Galileo- famous inventor physicist, mathematician and astronomer said: **"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."**
>
> **How will YOU react to the Truth now that YOU discovered it?**

Exodus 32:4-6 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a **molten calf**: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

Catering to the people, Aaron made **a pagan golden calf, and then declared it festival to the Lord!** The people brought offerings, had plenty to eat and drink, and made merry in **celebration.**

Was God pleased by all this? Better yet, was God pleased by any of this? NO! Their feast was an **abomination** before the Lord. (Moses ground up the golden idol to powder and made the people drink it, Exo 32:20.)

Today many of God's professed people turn themselves East to the rising Sun, on a Pagan Sun Day that has no biblical foundation what-so-ever, have Easter egg hunts, baskets full of candy, and sumptuous meals (usually including a ham, a biblically unclean and forbidden food) and call it a festival to the risen Lord.

God's Teachings Concerning Pagan Practices

Does God say that it is alright to observe the pagan festivals such as Easter even if we say we are honoring Christ?

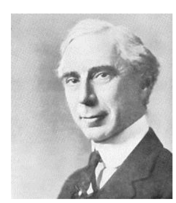
No, He emphatically tells us not to learn or mimic the ways of the heathen or profane nations. Notice carefully what he said to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land:

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 "When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; **Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD,** which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. **What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."**

God tells us not to add unto, or take away from, what He has to say. In Leviticus 23 God gives His people a list of annual holydays – festivals in His honor - for us to keep. Most people either do not know this or they are content to disregard God's festivals and rather observe ancient pagan inventions of men in their stead.

The New Testament God commands the Gentiles **to repent, to turn from, and to renounce such paganism.** When the apostle Paul and Barnabas preached to the Gentiles who practiced the religion of Diana, Adonis, Attis, and Jupiter**, their message was not acceptance and union of these religions with true Christianity. "Sirs, why do you these things?** We also are men of like passions with you, and preach to you that you should **turn from these vanities to the living God**, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past allowed the nations to walk in their own ways . . .And the times of this **ignorance** God winked at; **but now commands all men every where to repent!"** (Acts 14:15-16; 17:30).

The Bible shows that the New Testament church opposed the pagan religious practices and the blending of these pagan practices with the worship of the true God. "**But I say, the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God: and I would not that you should have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. . ."** (1 Cor.10:20-21).



Although against religion, a wise saying comes to us from Bertrand Russell [British logician, philosopher, and mathematician] who said: "**What a man believes upon grossly insufficient evidence is an index into his desires --** desires of which he himself is often unconscious. **If a man is offered a fact which goes against his instincts, he will scrutinize it closely, and unless the evidence is overwhelming, he will refuse to believe it. If, on the other hand, he is offered something which affords a reason for acting in accordance to his instincts, he will accept it even on the slightest evidence.** The origin of myths is explained in this way."

You just learned facts that probably go against some dearly held traditions. How will YOU react to the truth about Easter being a pagan holiday that is abhorred of God?

God has **never** given his church any authority to accept and assimilate pagan religious practices as a means of worshiping Him. Any person, organization, or church which does this, rejects the word of God and teaches doctrines that are contrary to the word of God.

The choice to reject "Easter" and keep the same days that Jesus Himself kept should be weighing on your conscience as the right thing to do after reading these facts. **We pray that God grant repentance and forgiveness and that the spirit comforts and encourages you to step out in faith and "be separate" from the world. Reject the holidays of men and learn about the genuine Holydays of God.**

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Deuteronomy 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Satan inspired the rejection of God's holydays and the observance of pagan holidays in their place. He has deceived the whole world! But God chooses to reveal His truth to those who seek Him and those which believe that He gives good things to them that believe.

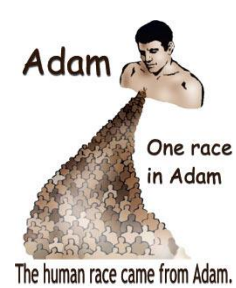
But now you can see that all of Easter, not just the Easter Bunny, is a **LIE.** No lie is of the truth. The true and Living God and His Son Jesus Christ have showed you truth this day. And the truth shall set you free.

Become **free** of the pagan holiday called Easter. Let **the truth of God** destroy the entanglements of the world that bind you to the world's holidays.

Repent of this sin and turn over a new leaf. Stop observing pagan holidays and learn about God's holydays and **weekly Sabbath**.

You will find a great reward in being obedient and humbly seeking God's will. God's Word as found in the Bible is for all mankind – not just the ones labeled as "Christians." God wants all to come to the knowledge of truth. You are His creation, once lost but now found.





We are family! All of us have common roots that go back to Noah and his family saved by the Flood. Therefore all of us come from the first man Adam who was created to become an obedient, loving Son of God. Adam disobeyed and disobedience became a way of life for us by choice. God has wanted each of us to be **reconciled** ever since. No matter how good you think you are you fall short of God's holiness and eternal life.

What Shall I Do? How Can I Be Saved?

If you are **not** a Christian yet, or have **backslid** away from the faith once delivered please consider giving yourself to Jesus Christ today. Not only as your Savior ... but as your living Lord and reigning King of everything in your life.

Let's talk about salvation (the forgiveness of your sins and the way to eternal life.)

- **Everyone needs salvation because we have all sinned.**

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, **no, not one.**

Romans 3:23 For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

- **The payment (or consequence) of sin is death.**

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **Jesus Christ died for our sins. He paid the price for our transgression of God's holy law.**

Romans 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**. Much more then, being now justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.** For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**

- **We receive salvation and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.**

Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved**. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13 For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- **Salvation through Jesus Christ brings us into a relationship of peace with God.**

Romans 5:1 Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

- **As long as you follow Him, nothing can separate you from God and His love.**

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able **to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

God loves you, yes you! No matter what you have done in the past or how you have lived – He wants you to turn your heart to Him. **He wants all of mankind to be saved.** [I John 4:10-11; I Timothy 2:4, John 3:16-18]

God sent His only Son, Jesus the Messiah (Christ), to pay the death penalty required for our disobedience. He did this so you and I can be forgiven and receive eternal life as a gift of reconciliation. All it takes is for you to repent (turn from all sin) confess to him that you are a sinner and that you need to be forgiven by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Then start life anew as a **living saint of God.** [2Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 14:12; Romans 10:9-13]

Isaiah 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; **Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

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Eph 6:17 And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is The Word of God

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